

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1.-66. (cancelled)

67. **(Currently amended)** A method of administering a biologically active protein to a subject, the method comprising

topically applying to the skin or epithelium of the subject the biologically active protein in conjunction with a carrier in an effective amount for transdermal delivery of the biologically active protein,

wherein the carrier comprises a polypeptide having attached positively charged branching groups comprising a sequence of amino acid residues,

wherein the positively charged branching groups are selected from the group consisting of  $-(\text{gly})_{n1}-(\text{arg})_{n2}$ ,  $(\text{gly})_p\text{-RGRDDRRQRRR}-(\text{gly})_q$  (SEQ ID NO. 2),  $(\text{gly})_p\text{-YGRKKRRQRRR}-(\text{gly})_q$  (SEQ ID NO. 3),  $(\text{gly})_p\text{-RKKRRQRRR}-(\text{gly})_q$  (SEQ ID NO. 4), and Antennapedia protein transduction domain (PTD),

wherein the subscript  $n1$  is an integer of from 0 to about 20, and the subscript  $n2$  is independently an odd integer of from about 5 to about 25,

wherein the subscripts  $p$  and  $q$  are each independently an integer of from 0 to 20,

wherein the biologically active protein excludes insulin, vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), and antibody fragments; and

wherein ~~the association between~~ the carrier and the biologically active protein ~~is~~ non-covalently and directly associate.

68. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 67, wherein the carrier provides greater transdermal delivery of the biologically active protein relative to the ~~agent~~ biologically active protein in the absence of the carrier.

69. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 68, wherein the biologically active protein has therapeutic activity.

70. **(Cancelled)**

71. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 69, wherein the therapeutic protein does not therapeutically alter blood glucose levels.
72. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 69, wherein the therapeutic protein excludes botulinum toxin.
- 73.-191. **(cancelled).**